

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously amended): A process for preparing an extract of a plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* or of the genus *Hoodia*, the extract comprising an appetite suppressant agent, the process including the steps of treating plant material with a solvent to extract a fraction having appetite suppressant activity, separating the extraction solution from the rest of the plant material, removing the solvent from the extraction solution and recovering the extract.

Claim 2 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* is selected from the species *Trichocaulon piliferum* and *Trichocaulon officinale* and the plant of the genus *Hoodia* is selected from the species *Hoodia currorii*, *Hoodia gordonii* and *Hoodia lugardii*.

Claim 3 (previously amended): A process as claimed in claim 1 which includes the step of concentrating the active agent in the extracted material by further extraction with a solvent.

Claim 4 (previously amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvent in the solvent extraction step or steps is one or more of methylene chloride, water, methanol, hexane, ethyl acetate or mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (previously amended): A process as claimed in claim 1 which includes the step of concentrating the active agent in the extracted material by chromatographic separation.

Claim 6 (original): A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein the chromatographic separation employs one or more of chloroform, methanol, ethyl acetate, hexane or mixtures thereof as an eluant.

Claim 7 (previously amended): A process as claimed in claim 5 which includes carrying out the chromatographic separation on a column, collecting the eluate in fractions from the column, evaluating the fractions to determine their appetite suppressant activity, and selecting the at least one fraction containing the appetite suppressant agent.

Claim 8 (previously amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the extract is processed to form a free flowing powder.

Claim 9 (previously amended): An extract comprising an appetite suppressant agent when produced by a process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 10 (original): A composition having appetite suppressant activity is comprising the extract claimed in claim 9.

Claim 11 (original): A composition as claimed in claim 10 when admixed with a pharmaceutical excipient, diluent or carrier.

Claim 12 (previously amended): A composition as claimed in claim 11 which is prepared in unit dosage form.

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (original): An extract as claimed in claim 9 for use as a medicament having appetite suppressant activity.

Claim 15 (previously amended): A method of suppressing an appetite by administering to a human or animal an effective dosage of a composition as claimed in claim 10.

Claim 16 (previously amended): A process for preparing an extract of a plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* or of the genus *Hoodia*, the extract comprising an appetite suppressant agent, the process including the steps of pressing plant material to separate sap from solid plant material and recovering the sap free of the solid plant material to form the extract.

Claim 17 (original): A process as claimed in claim 16 wherein the extract is dried to form a free-flowing powder.

Claim 18 (previously amended): An extract comprising an appetite suppressant agent when produced by a process as claimed in claim 16.

Claim 19 (original): A composition having appetite suppressant activity comprising the extract as claimed in claim 18.

Claim 20 (original): A composition as claimed in claim 19 when admixed with a pharmaceutical excipient, diluent or carrier.

Claim 21 (previously amended): A composition as claimed in claim 20 which is prepared in unit dosage form.

Claim 22 (canceled).


Claim 23 (original): An extract as claimed in claim 18 for use as a medicament having appetite suppressant activity.

Claim 24 (previously amended): A method of suppressing an appetite by administering to a human or animal an effective dosage of a composition as claimed in claim 19.

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Claim ~~25~~ (new): A medicament having appetite suppressant activity, comprising an extract as claimed in claim 9.

¹²³
Claim ~~26~~ (new): A medicament having appetite suppressant activity, comprising an extract as claimed in claim 19.

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Claim ~~27~~ (new): A process for preparing a purified extract of a plant extract of a plant of the genus *Trichocaulon* or of the genus *Hoodia*, the extract comprising an appetite suppressant, the process including the steps of

 treating collected plant material with at least one solvent to provide a solution of a crude extract containing the appetite suppressant agent,

partitioning the crude extract between two immiscible solvents to separate a solution of the extract containing the appetite suppressant agent from a solution of the extract not containing the agent,

concentrating the solution of the extract containing the appetite suppressant agent,

and

recovering the purified extract.